

2004 Excellence in Journalism Winners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE:

Feb. 4, 2005

The Black College Communication Association today announced the winners of the 2004 HBCU "Excellence in Journalism" Student Newspaper Contest. Honoring the finest work of student-produced newspapers at the historically black colleges, the contest annually serves as a barometer of the progress made by the student news staffs with support from their advisers and faculty.

In addition, this year, a new award was created to honor students and college newspapers that have demonstrated journalistic courage. The award is named in honor of Pearl Stewart, a stalwart advocate of HBCU student journalism, founder of the Black College Wire and the new managing editor of the Chicago Defender.

The Pearl Stewart Freedom Fighter award will encourage student journalists to uphold the First Amendment and strive for excellence in news coverage. This year's inaugural recipient is Daarel Burnette, a student at Hampton University. Burnette was the reporter who wrote the story on the code violations at the university cafeteria. Publication of the story prompted the school administration to confiscate the homecoming edition of the Hampton Script.

That breach of the First Amendment set off a flurry of criticism that brought the actions of the university's president under national scrutiny. A special task force made recommendations that would protect the students' first amendment rights. Since that time, however, the agreement has been violated by the university administration. Burnette received the award for his "exuberance, tenacity and perseverance in the pursuit of free speech."

Although primarily an educational tool, the HBCU newspaper contest also serves as a showcase of top student work in news, feature, sports and editorial writing, page design, photography, graphics and cartooning. Newspaper advisers and staffs study the winning entries for ideas to improve their own publications. In addition, newspaper industry recruiters use the winner's list as they search for job candidates. Many of the award-winning student journalists are searching for summer internships and first jobs.

This year, 15 college newspapers competed. They submitted more than 825 entries in 25 categories. In addition, almost a dozen HBCU newspaper Web sites competed for honors. The awards were announced at the 7th annual HBCU Newspaper Conference and Job Fair, held in Baton Rouge, La., with Southern University as the host. This year's judges included working journalists from the Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, the Associated Press, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Baltimore Sun, and The Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.). Trophies and certificates were sponsored by The New York Times.

A complete list of winners will be available online at www.blackcollegewire.org. 2004 HBCU "EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM" winners

1. BEST STUDENT NEWSPAPER (published twice a week or more often)

First place: The Famuan
 Second place: The Hilltop
 Third place: The Southern Digest

1b. BEST STUDENT NEWSPAPER (published weekly)

First place: Gramblinite
 Second place: The Hornet Tribune
 Third place: A&T Register

1c. BEST STUDENT NEWSPAPER (published non-weekly)

First place: Campus Echo
Second place: Xavier Herald
Third place: Courtbouillon

2. BEST NEWS COVERAGE

First place: Campus Echo
Second place: Southern Digest
Third place: The Panther

3. BEST EDITORIAL/OPINION SECTION

First place: The Famuan
Second place: The Hornet Tribune
Third place (tie): The Hilltop The Blue & White Flash
Honorable mention: The Meter

4. BEST LAYOUT Best in tabloid format

First place: The Southern Digest Best in broadsheet format
Honorable mention: The Famuan

5. BEST GRAPHICS and USE OF GRAPHIC ELEMENTS

First place: The Southern Digest
Second place: Spartan Echo
Honorable mention: The Gramblinite

6. BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

First place: A&T Register
Second place: Southern Digest
Third place: The Blue & White Flash
Honorable mention: Spartan Echo
Honorable mention: The Panther

7. BEST FEATURES/A&E SECTION

First place: The Famuan
Second place: The Panther
Third place: The Hilltop
Honorable mention: The Meter
Honorable mention: The Gramblinite

8. BEST PHOTOGRAPHY

First place: Campus Echo
Second place: The Famuan
Third Place: The Gramblinite

9. BEST ONLINE

First place: The Hilltop Online
Second place: The A&T Register

10. BEST SPECIAL SECTION or THEME EDITION

First place: The Hornet Tribune, Election Special Edition
Second place: The Spartan Echo, Security Special Edition
Third place: The Hornet Tribune, Hurricane Season Special Edition
Honorable mention: The Meter, Love and Sex Issue
Honorable mention: The Famuan

11. BEST NEWS STORY

Two or three times weekly
First place: Elizabeth Broadway, The Famuan "Florida Under Siege"
Honorable mention: Rachael Shackelford, Diamond Washington, The Famuan "Alumni Petition for New School Leadership"

Weekly newspaper

First place: Yolanda Davis, Xavier Herald "Xavierite wins Miss Louisiana USA"
Second place: Anterria Brown, The Panther "Students Denied Voting Site on Campus"

Honorable mention: Markuetric Stringfellow, Gramblinite "Enrollment Tops 5,000"
 Honorable mention: Chris Faughn, Lincoln Clarion "No Flu Vaccine For This Season at LU"

Non-weekly

First place: Lovemore Masakadza, Campus Echo "Stompin' Out HIV"
 Honorable mention: Jennifer Jiggetts, The Spartan Echo "NSU's Enrollment Drops 10 Percent"
 Honorable mention: Lovemore Masakadza, Campus Echo "Tenure Process Reveals Kinks"

12. BEST NEWS SERIES

Honorable mention: Coverage of President Hefner The Meter, Tennessee State University

13. BEST INVESTIGATIVE or IN-DEPTH STORY

Honorable mention "Tenure process" multi-part story Lovemore Masakadza, Campus Echo, NCCU

14. BEST EDITORIAL/OPINION/COMMENTARY

First place: Ashley Northington, The Meter "SGA Too Late to 'Save' Hefner"
 Second place: Kendrick Marshall, The Blue and White Flash "Possible Diagnosis of Cancer"
 Third place: Erika Franklin, The A&T Register "The Caged Bird Sings"
 Honorable mention: Brandi Howard, The Bennett Banner "A Laundry Nightmare"

15. BEST FEATURE STORY

First place: A.J. Griffith, The Southern Digest "Back from Iraq"
 Second place: Ihuoma Ezeh, The Campus Echo "Single Moms Work Hard"
 Third place: Tosha Jones, The Meter "Dare to Wear Natural Hair"
 Honorable mention: Kimberly Bell, The Hornet Tribune "The Oldest Living Alumna"

16. BEST SPORTS STORY

First place: Nikki G. Bannister, The Southern Digest "Slain Football Player's Memory Lives On"
 Honorable mention: Tamika L. Jefferson, The Meter "Tiger Golf Soars with Black Woman Coach"

17. BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

First place: Lovemore Masakadza, Campus Echo "NCCU Students Give Views on Debate"
 Second place: Robin Davis and Joi Gilliam, The Hilltop "Mugging at Shaw/Howard Metro"
 Third place: Ruth L. Tisdale and Chad Bishop, The Hilltop "Campus Police Shoot Ex-student at West Towers"

18. BEST INDIVIDUAL PHOTO

First place: Aaron Daye, Campus Echo
 Second place: Shevaun Lassiter, A&T Register
 Third place: Evan White, The Panther

19. BEST SPORTS PHOTO

First place: Douglas Toussaint, The Southern Digest

20. BEST EDITORIAL CARTOON

First place: Cory Thomas, The Hilltop
 Second place: Kalen Davis, The Campus Echo
 Third place: Russell Nichols/Robert Stevenson, The Famuan "Rattled"
 Honorable mention: Thomas Forrest, The Southern Digest "College Life"
 Honorable mention: D. M. Becton, Xavier Herald "Convassayshunz"

21. BEST INDIVIDUAL GRAPHIC DESIGN

(Tie) First place: Michael Grant, The Gramblinite Ryan P. Knight, Southern Digest
 Honorable mention: Stacey Flanagan, Spartan Echo

22. BEST FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First place: The Famuan
 Second place: The Gramblinite
 Third place: Campus Echo

23. BEST SPORTS PAGE DESIGN

First place: The Hornet Tribune
 Second place: The Famuan
 Best individual page design: Sheena Johnson, Campus Echo

24. BEST FEATURE/A&E PAGE DESIGN

First place newspaper: Campus Echo
Second place newspaper: The Famuan
Best individual page design: Johndel Barret, The Famuan

25. BEST OPINION/EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE DESIGN

First place: Xavier Herald
Second place: Blue & White Flash

JUDGES:

Johnathon Briggs, metro reporter, Chicago Tribune
Sam Davis, assistant managing editor for recruiting and staff development, The Baltimore Sun
Michelle Deal-Zimmerman, assistant managing editor for design and graphics, The Baltimore Sun
Arthur Hirsch, state reporter, The Baltimore Sun
Sherry Howard, executive online news editor, The Philadelphia Inquirer
Joseph Hutchinson, deputy managing editor/design, The Los Angeles Times
Alva James-Johnson, Caribbean affairs reporter, the Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
Ambre Brown Morley, corporate communications, Johnson & Johnson; former health reporter, Bloomberg
News
Donna Owens, freelance feature writer (Essence, BET); and former editor, UNISON
magazine
Kathy Pellegrino, recruitment editor, the Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
Hillery Smith Shay, photographer, Associated Press
Sheila Solomon, senior editor for recruitment, Chicago Tribune
Karla Shores, education reporter; the Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
Jean Thompson, Contest Coordinator; editorial consultant, Black College Wire; former associate
editorial page editor, The Baltimore Sun
M. Dion Thompson, novelist; former city reporter, The Baltimore Sun
Mitchell Vantrease, metro reporter, Daily News-Sun (Sun City, Az.)
Rufus Young, copy editor, the Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)